

# The Hong Kong Daily Press.

六零千七第 日四金月六年庚辰光 HONGKONG, FRIDAY, JULY 30TH, 1880. 五拜禮 號十三月七英 港香 [PRICE 2 1/2 PER MONTH]

## BANKS.

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## The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, JULY 30TH, 1880.

The case of Li Aping, who on Wednesday, at the Criminal Sessions of the Supreme Court, was sentenced by the Chief Justice to two years' imprisonment with hard labour, is important in affording a striking illustration of the corrupting tendencies of gambling.

We have on several occasions given publicity to reports made, on good native authority, of the bribery that goes on among the Chinese section of the Police Force in this Colony, most of whom are credited with receiving regular sums from the owners of the gambling-houses. The attempt to bribe Inspector LINDSAY with the sum of \$500 to induce him to connive at the existence of certain gambling-houses will be accepted as corroboration of the statements made as to the corruption of the Chinese Force. It is fortunate for the Colony that it possesses officers in the Police who are able to resist a bribe so tempting. But, knowing the infirmity of human nature, can we dare to hope that all the members of the Police Force are immune to the fascination of a goodly pile of Mexican? It is hardly to be expected that all of them would be proof against the allurements dangled before their eyes by the gambling-house keepers, and in any case we cannot wonder at the Chinese yielding readily to the temptation. In China, as Mr. HAYLAND pointed out, the bribing of a superior officer in a thing attempted every day, and every man has his price. What wonder, then, that the gambling-house keepers should seek to try the same influence here? What wonder that gambling should be so life when there is so unreasonably large a proportion of the Police Force Chinese? It is the most inconsistent folly to suppose that gambling can ever be kept within moderate limits—to suppress it entirely is, we think, absolutely impossible—so long as Chinese are employed in such large numbers in the Police. The late Mr. CHARLES MAY, then when no man who has ever lived in this Colony was so well qualified to express an opinion on the subject, said, in reference to the composition of the Police, when giving evidence before the Committee

which sat in 1872, that "if you have one half of the Police Force Chinese, you have one half of the Police." This opinion he never saw reason, we imagine, to modify, and it may be accepted as the correct view of the question. There are, of course, some few Chinese constables who are both useful and reliable, but the mass of them are singularly useless and unreliable. Gambling must continue till the place of the Chinese police officers is filled by Portuguese or Sikhs. The former would be preferable on many accounts, and we see no reason why they should not be employed.

The sentence passed by the Chief Justice upon the prisoner Li Aping was not a whit too heavy, spite of the plea of counsel on his behalf. As Sir JOHN STUART observed, in passing sentence, "the prisoner had pleaded guilty to one of the most serious offences known to the law—that he tried to seduce a police officer from doing his duty by offering him money. That was an offence which sapped the very foundation of justice and which must be suppressed with a very strong hand." The sentence had necessarily to be severe, spite of the prisoner's previous good character, in order that he might be an example to his countrymen. The Chinese must be taught that while they can enjoy the advantages of a mild and benign rule in this island, they are not at liberty to import all the peculiar institutions of the Flowery Land here, that British law is immutable, and that justice cannot be purchased by the highest bidder. Until these facts are fully recognized, it cannot be said that the law of Great Britain has been successfully administered here. Under the present régime, unhappily for all parties, the impression has been allowed to get about that the island is ruled in some measure according to Chinese ideas, and this feeling has been strengthened by the mode adopted by the Head of the Executive to ascertain the opinions of the "leading Chinese" on every possible subject. That such an impression is calculated to have an injurious effect both upon British influence in China and the prestige of the local Government here it is needless to point out.

For some time past it must have been apparent, even to the most casual observer, that the wise and salutary regulation which provides that Chinese going abroad after nine o'clock p.m. shall carry a light and pass has been suffered to become pretty nearly a dead letter. Any one walking through the streets at night during the past twelve months after the hour above mentioned could not fail to remark the number of natives about without lights, and probably without passes. The police, for some reason, took little heed of this violation of a most valuable ordinance, and comparatively few cases have been brought up at the Police Court for some months. Possibly, the Police have considered their trouble thrown away when they found five or six, ten, and even fifteen Chinese, in a single case, and since such punishment could not be supposed to act as a deterrent even to a coolie. It is, therefore, satisfactory to note that Mr. FRANCIS has taken a different view of the infringement of this law, and on Wednesday inflicted fines of five and ten dollars on offenders who could give no reasonable excuse for being at large without passes. If this Light and Pass Ordinance were to be allowed to fall into desuetude, we should speedily have crime as rampant as ever, and the streets would become unsafe to pedestrians at night. The criminals are still in our midst, unfortunately, and they only require opportunities to prove that their capacity for committing raids on property is a great as ever. The light and pass system is one of the most useful safeguards that could have been devised to keep in check a horde of desperate men who are honest only so long as a rigid check is kept upon their actions. To this end the Police should be ordered to keep a very sharp lookout for offenders against the Ordinance, and if uniformly treated as Mr. FRANCIS treated those before him on Wednesday, there would soon be a return to the old condition of things, where breaches of the Ordinance were rare, but quietude instead of being, as now, too often scenes of uproar and confusion.

His Majesty the Mikado of Japan officially opened the new railway from Kioto to Otsu on the 17th inst.

The earthquake which visited Manila on the 15th instant was felt at Iloilo, but no slightly that it passed unnoted by many persons.

The double-screw gun-vessel *Kastel*, a Commodore Lang, arrived at Manila on the 22nd instant from Hongkong en route to Singapore.

We are informed by the Agents (Messrs. Geo. R. Stevens & Co.) that the steamer *Meath*, bound for this port for Melbourne, arrived at Cockburn yesterday morning.

The British barque *Mallock*, Captain Edwards, arrived at this port from Hongkong on the 23rd inst. and a half, from Hongkong.

Mr. Parker, who had his arm broken in three places in the earthquake at Manila on the 15th inst., had the limb amputated on the 23rd. The operation was successfully performed.

The Hongkong Marine Society has forwarded a telegram to the Police Station at Shau Kei Nan, Stanley, and Yow Ma Tei, as well as other stations, with a view to the suppression of any kind.

Messrs. Gibb, Livingston & Co. have received a telegram from the Agents in Australia announcing that the steamer *Albatross* arrived in Melbourne on the 26th inst., and the steamer *Monarch* arrived in Sydney on the 27th inst., both with first news from Foochow direct.

The Superintendent of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company received the following message last night from the Inspector-General of Telegraphs, Manila:—"A telegraph line has been cut by the earthquake at Manila, and the line is now being repaired."

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## THE HONGKONG HOTEL COMPANY, LIMITED.

The ordinary half-yearly meeting of the shareholders in the above company was held at the ALBION UNLAWFUL POSSESSION.

There were present Messrs. E. R. Bolles, F. G. Bolles, H. H. Bolles, A. S. Bolles, G. Bolles, J. T. Bolles, A. E. Bolles, and J. T. Bolles (Secretary).

The Chairman said—Gentlemen, our report and accounts in reference to the last half-year having been in your hands for the last few days, I presume you will allow us to take them as read. The report deals fully with the subject under the headings we have generally adopted. I have nothing more to add, but I shall be glad to answer any questions. There being no questions, gentlemen, I propose that the report be adopted and the accounts passed.

The Chairman said he was sorry to say Mr. Landstein was sick and unable to be present at the meeting.

On the motion of Mr. DEACON, seconded by Mr. E. R. Bolles, a resolution was passed that the Chairman should be authorized to employ a clerk or clerical agent, Mr. DEACON seconded the motion, which was carried *en bloc*.

On the motion of Mr. E. R. Bolles, seconded by Mr. G. Bolles, a resolution was passed that the Chairman should be authorized to employ a clerk or clerical agent, Mr. DEACON seconded the motion, which was carried *en bloc*.

The Chairman said that he concluded the business. He thanked the shareholders for their attendance and the assurance that the dividend would be payable to day.

On the motion of Mr. DEACON, seconded by Mr. E. R. Bolles, a resolution was passed that the Chairman should be authorized to employ a clerk or clerical agent, Mr. DEACON seconded the motion, which was carried *en bloc*.

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On the motion of Mr. DEACON, seconded by Mr. E. R. Bolles, a resolution was passed that the Chairman should be authorized to employ a clerk or clerical agent, Mr. DEACON seconded the motion, which was carried *en bloc*.

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## LATEST TELEGRAMS.

REUTERS TELEGRAMS.  
SUPPLIED TO THE "DAILY PRESS."

FOR EASTERN EXTENSION, AUSTRALASIA, AND CHINA TELEGRAPH COMPANY'S LINE.

LONDON, July 29th.

RUSSIA AND CHINA.  
The Chinese Minister M. Ma Junghui Tseng is expected at St. Petersburg to resume negotiations.

THE RUSSIAN SQUADRON IN THE PACIFIC.  
The last contingent of Russian war vessels has left for the Pacific.

THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN.—DISASTERS AT CANDAHAR.  
The Secretary of State for India has announced that a British Brigade (Barrow's) has been annihilated at Candahar; no further details.

THE IRISH EVICTION BILL.  
The Irish Eviction Bill has been read a third time in the House of Commons.

THE EARTHQUAKE AT MANILA.  
The earthquake which visited Manila on the 15th inst.—at half-past three o'clock yesterday afternoon—was followed after a few seconds, appeared to many persons of greater intensity than that of Sunday. This is the first time in the unfortunate history of this capital that a great earthquake has been followed in this manner by another of extraordinary severity. The feeling of surprise followed by that of anxiety which prevailed on Sunday is now converted into terror of a description which is difficult to describe. The most self-possessed no longer lifts their heads, and the impulse of the population to seek refuge in light structures outside the city has, as may be supposed, increased. The powerful shocks of yesterday afternoon have completed the destructive work of those of Sunday. From all sides notices reach us of the partial downfall of public buildings and private houses.

Details of the damage are then given.

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## YOKOHAMA.

It is proposed to build a new dry dock at Yokohama. The dock is to be 100 feet long and 20 feet wide, and is to be built on the site of the old dock.

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